

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-34 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of newly presented Claims 35-46.

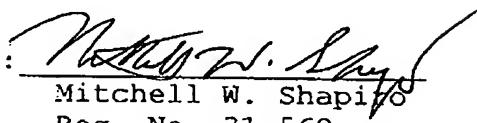
The outstanding rejection of Claims 1-4 is moot in view of the cancellation of those claims. As will be apparent, newly presented independent Claim 35 distinguishes patentably from the teachings of Sakai et al. and Stefanutti. See especially the features recited in the final paragraph of the claim, which features are not taught or suggested by the applied references.

Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and

has not been requested separately, then such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 1, 2005.

  
Mitchell W. Shapiro